BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5920 JUNE 16, 1978
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

THIS WEEK NO. 24

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS----------.

NARR:

CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECENT INVASION OF ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE, AND THE STATE OF U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE CONTINUED TO MAKE MUCH OF THE NEWS THIS WEEK. REPEATING EARLIER CHARGES OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID IN A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAS NO DESIRE TO GET INTO A PUBLIC DISPUTE WITH FIDEL CASTRO. BUT HE MAINTAINED THAT THERE IS FIRM PROOF THAT CUBA WAS INDEED INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF ZAIRE'S INVADERS DESPITE CUBA'S DENIALS.

MISTER CARTER SAID THE CUBAN LEADER COULD HAVE INTERCEDED WITH THE KATANGANS, COULD HAVE PLACED CUBAN TROOPS NEAR THE BOARDER TO IMPEDE THE INVASION OF ZAIRE, COULD HAVE NOTIFIED THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE WORLD OF THE IMPENDING INVASION, BUT INSTEAD DID NONE OF THESE THINGS:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CARTER

"RATHER THAN LOOK BACKWARD, I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH FOR MISTER CASTRO TO PLEDGE HIMSELF AND FOR THE NETO GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA TO PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO PREVENT FUTURE INVASIONS OF ZAIRE. AND OF COURSE, WE WOULD ALSO RELISH THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN TROOPS IN THE FUTURE BOTH THERE AND ETHIOPIA, AND SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN, BRITISH AND OTHER EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF AFRICA."

NARR:

ZAIRE WAS ALSO THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION AT AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS THIS WEEK. THERE ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS ESTIMATE

THAT ABOUT ONE HUNDRED TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS IN EMERGENCY AID IS NEEDED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT FIGHTING IN SHABA AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF SOME COPPER MINES. NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS MEETING IN BRUSSELS HAVE AGREED TO MEET ALL OF ZAIRE'S HUMANITARIAN NEEDS. SOME HAVE AGREED TO SPEED UP DELIVERY OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES ALREADY ALLOTTED TO ZAIRE, AND SOME AID ALREADY ALLOCATED TO OTHER PROJECTS WILL BE USED TO HELP MEET THE EMERGENCY.

BUT SOME POTENTIAL DONORS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE AND BRITAIN, SAY THEY NEED MORE INFORMATION FROM THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE THEY DECIDE ON THEIR CONTRIBUTION. INFORMED SOURCES SAID THIS INCLUDES SOME INDICATION THAT ZAIRE PLANS TO SERIOUSLY FOLLOW THROUGH ON ECONOMIC REFORMS PROMISED IN PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S RECOVERY PLAN.

(OPT) EARLIER IN THE WEEK, U.S. AMBASSADOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS, ANDREW YOUNG, DENIED ANY AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO A PAN-AFRICAN FORCE TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE SHABA INVASION:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- YOUNG

"WE HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO ANY ALL-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE, AND BASICALLY WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE SUCH A FORCE. IF THERE IS ANY CRISIS INTERVENTION THAT HAS TO BE DONE, WE THINK THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDE THE MECHANISM FOR DEALING WITH THOSE CRISIS IN AFRICA, JUST AS THEY DO IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. AND I WOULD HOPE THAT THE O.A.U. IN ITS KHARTOUM MEETING WOULD BEGIN TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION."
NARR: (END OPT)

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE ALSO VERY MUCH ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIND THIS WEEK, AS THE WHITE HOUSE CONTINUED ITS DEFENSE OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY TOWARDS MOSCOW. OFFICIALS SAID THIS POLICY -- AN ENUNCIATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER LAST WEEK -- IS NEITHER HARD-LINE NOR SOFT. AND THEY ADDED THAT ATTEMPTS TO CHARACTERIZE THE APPROACH IN SUCH SIMPLE TERMS IGNORE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE BIG-POWER RELATIONSHIP.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL SAID PRESIDENT CARTER WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR IN HIS ANNAPOLIS SPEECH HIS CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO MOSCOW -- ESPECIALLY IN EFFORTS TO REACH A NEW ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT. BUT HE ALSO WANTED TO CONVEY REAL CONCERN THAT SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE COULD UNDERMINE DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR DETENTE IN THE UNITED STATES. A THIRD BASIC GOAL OF THE ADDRESS, ACCORDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN, WAS TO REALISTICALLY ASSESS THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WITH THE PRESIDENT STRESSING THAT THE MILITARY CAPABILITY OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES IS ADEQUATE TO MEET ANY FORESEEABLE THREAT.

LATER IN THE WEEK, DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN DISPUTED ALLEGATIONS OF CONFUSION IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD DETENTE. HE SAID THE APPEARANCE OF CONFUSION IS IN FACT A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO A DIVERSE WORLD SITUATION. SECRETARY BROWN ADDED THAT WHILE IT IS NOT A VERY COMFORTABLE SITUATION, THE UNITED STATES MUST BE READY TO OPPOSE THE SOVIET UNION MILITARILY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO NEGOTIATE WITH MOSCOW:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- BROWN

"WE PURSUE THESE TWO TRACKS. WE MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS THAT THERE ARE SITUATIONS IN WHICH IF THEY CARRY COMPETITION TOO FAR IT COULD APPROACH THE OLD DAYS OF THE COLD WAR AND CONFRONTATION. WE DON'T SEEK THAT. WE TRY TO DEFUSE IT WHERE POSSIBLE. BUT WE DON'T INTEND TO BE BULLIED. WE DON'T INTEND TO ALLOW OUR ALLIES TO BE BULLIED."

NARR:

IN MOSCOW, MEANWHILE, SOVIET AUTHORITIES HOLDING AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN, FRANCIS JAY CRAWFORD, SAID HE IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR ALLEGED CURRENCY SPECULATION -- A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY UP TO FIFTEEN YEARS IN PRISON IN THE SOVIET UNION. VOA CORRESPONDENT MARK HOPKINS HAS THIS REPORT:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- HOPKINS

"AN AMERICAN SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER TALKED WITH MISTER CRAWFORD FOR ABOUT AN HOUR THURSDAY AT THE LEFORTOVO PRISON. THE THIRTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD BUSINESSMAN WAS TAKEN THERE AFTER HE WAS PULLED FROM HIS AUTOMOBILE IN MOSCOW MONDAY NIGHT. THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME THAT U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE MISTER CRAWFORD, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN FARM COMPANY, INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER. HIS FIRM IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AMONG AMERICAN ENTERPRISES REPRESENTED IN MOSCOW. AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL, RICHARD O'BRIEN, SAID AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ARE CONCERNED BY MISTER CRAWFORD'S ARREST AND WOULD BE IF HE IS BROUGHT TO TRIAL. MISTER O'BRIEN SAID IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THE CASE WILL DISCOURAGE SOVIET-AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS."

NARR:

(OPT) EARLIER IN THE WEEK, THERE WAS ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE CONTINUING SOVIET-AMERICAN DISPUTE OVER SPYING IN MOSCOW. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA SAID AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IDENTIFIED AS MARTHA PETERSON WAS SEIZED IN MOSCOW LAST JULY AS SHE DEPOSITED SPYING EQUIPMENT AT A BRIDGE. IZVESTIA SAID THE CONTAINER WAS OPENED IN THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER U.S. DIPLOMAT AND WAS FOUND TO INCLUDE PHOTO CAMERAS, GOLD, MONEY, INSTRUCTIONS AND POISON. IZVESTIA ADDED THAT THE SAME TYPE OF POISON HAD BEEN SENT TO MOSCOW BEFORE BY THE C.I.A. AND THAT IT HAD BEEN USED TO KILL A SOVIET CITIZEN. THE PAPER GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS OF ITS ALLEGATION. (END OPT)

PRESIDENT CARTER AND INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI HELD TWO DAYS OF TALKS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, DURING WHICH BOTH LEADERS HAILED WHAT THEY SAID HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN AMERICAN-INDIAN RELATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR. PRESIDENT CARTER PRAISED MISTER DESAI FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, STRESSING HIS ROLE IN RESTORING DEMOCRACY IN INDIA:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- CARTER

"HE REPRESENTS A NATION THAT IS THE LARGEST DEMOCRACY ON EARTH -- A PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE THE LARGEST FREE ELECTORATE THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. AND HE WAS ELECTED AT A TIME WHEN HIS COUNTRY WAS TORN APART BY DISSENSION AND BY DISCOURAGEMENT, AND EVEN BY ANIMOSITY...AND HE HELPED WITH HIS LEADERSHIP, AND THOSE WHO HAVE COME HERE WITH HIM AND WHO SERVED WITH HIM, TO

PROTECT THE PUREST PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND THE FABRIC OF THE LAW."

NARR:

PRIME MINISTER DESAI STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA SHARE COMMON VALUES, AND HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS THERE IS MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH TRANSCENDS POLICY DIFFERENCES:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- DESAI

"EVEN IF THERE ARE DIFFERENCES, WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER VERY FULLY AND TRY TO FIND OUT A WAY WHICH IS COMMON SO THAT WE ARE ABLE TO SUCCEED IN OUR COMMON MISSION OF ACHIEVING PEACE IN THIS COUNTRY AND BANISHING WAR, SO THAT THE WORLD BECOMES ONE FAMILY OF HUMAN BEINGS."

NARR:

ONE OF THE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFERENCES IN INDIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS OVER NUCLEAR POLICY--WITH INDIA FACING A CUT-OFF OF U.S. URANIUM SHIPMENT BECAUSE OF ITS REFUSAL TO ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES. BUT DURING THEIR TALKS, THE LEADERS OF BOTH NATIONS EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED. LATER PRIME MINISTER DESAI CALLED IT A VERY SMALL MATTER WHICH IS NOT GOING TO STAND IN THE WAY OF OVER-ALL IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

(OPT) WHILE THE TWO LEADERS WERE HOLDING THEIR FINAL SESSION, THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REJECTED MOVES TO BLOCK AN INTERIM SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA. APPARENTLY AN APPEARANCE EARLIER BY MISTER DESAI BEFORE THE COMMITTEE HELPED TO TURN THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE SALES. HOWEVER U.S. LAW WILL FORBID SUCH SALES AFTER NEXT YEAR UNLESS INDIA ACCEPTS INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. (END OPT)

IN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THIS WEEK, ISRAEL COMPLETED THE PULLBACK OF ITS FORCES FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. HOWEVER UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATED THAT MOST OF THE ISRAELI

POSITIONS HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN RATHER THAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCES IN LEBANON. THE ISRAELIS HAD COOPERATED WITH THE U.N. COMMANDER IN CARRYING OUT THRES PREVIOUS WITHDRAWAL STAGES DURING APRIL, BUT THEY DECIDED TO FOLLOW A DIFFERENT POLICY WHEN IT CAME TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE MORE SENSITIVE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES ALONG ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDER. THIS WEEK'S WITHDRAWAL MARKS THE END OF ISRAELIS THREE-MONTH-OLD ARMED PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WHICH BEGAN WHEN ISRAELI FORCES CROSSED THE BORDER TO ATTACK P.L.O. TRAINING CAMPS AND POSITIONS FROM WHICH ATTACKS HAD BEEN LAUNCHED AGAINST ISRAELI VILLAGES.

AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL WAS COMPLETED ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN CALLED ON U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM TO KEEP PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS OUT OF THE AREA. IN A SHARPLY WORDED LETTER, MISTER DAYAN CHARGED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH VIOLATING A COMMITMENT TO PREVENT THE RETURN OF PALESTINIAN ARMED TERRORISTS TO THE AREA OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL EARLIER THIS YEAR. MISTER DAYAN ALSO WARNED THAT THIS "BODES ILL FOR THE FUTURE." HE SAID THAT HUNDREDS OF P.L.O. TERRORISTS HAVE RETURNED TO SOUTHERN LEBANON WITH ARMS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT -- AND THAT THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE IS ALLOWING THE TRANSIT OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO THE TERRORISTS.

SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM ISSUED A SHARP REPLY TO MISTER DAYAN'S CHARGES, AS WE HEAR FROM VOA CORRESPONDENT JOHN GUERRINI:

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- GUERRINI

"THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS HE IS SURPRISED AT THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY MISTER DAYAN, NOTING THAT HE HAS REPORTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT P.L.O. LEADER YASSIR ARAFAT HAS PLEDGED NOT TO INFILTRATE ARMED ELEMENTS INTO THE U.N. AREA OF OPERATIONS. MISTER WALDHEIN SAYS HE TAKES EXCEPTION TO THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER'S WARNING THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION BODES ILL FOR THE FUTURE. HE SAYS THE U.N. IS MAKING GREAT

EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT ITS JOB IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. AND HE CHARGES THAT THE JOB HAS NOT BEEN MADE EASIER BY THE ISRAELI DECISION TO TURN OVER MANY OF ITS POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO CHRISTIAN MILITIA FORCES INSTEAD OF THE U.N."

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS--------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT---WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

JS/RCS